

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 5-9 and 12-14 have been rejected as being obvious over JP08-067413 (Mitsuyoshi et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,672,230 (Park et al.).

None of the references disclose or suggest a feature of claim 5 in the subject application, i.e., “a substrate treating apparatus for performing a predetermined treatment of a plurality of substrates as immersed in a heated treating solution” which immerses the substrates in the heated treating solution for a processing time determined by a processing time determining device according to a count of the substrates.

JP Patent No. 08-067413 (Mitsuyoshi et al.), the principal reference, merely describes a substrate count acquiring device and a treating device.

U.S. Patent No. 5,672,230 (Park et al.) merely states, “reference numeral 20 denotes a main computer connected to wet chemical cleaning stations 10 so as to display, store and process the data sensed by the sensors of wet chemical cleaning stations 10 and centrally manage the data.” This reference neither discloses nor suggests the above-mentioned feature of claim 5, whereby substrates are immersed in a heated treating solution for a processing time determined by a processing time determining device according to a count of the substrates.

Thus, the combination of Park et al. and Mitsuyoshi et al. does not constitute the invention of claim 5. Allowance of claims 5-9 and 12-14 is requested.

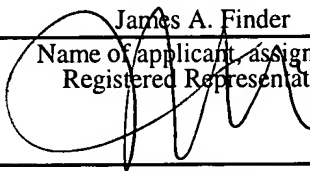
Claims 10-11 and 15-16 have been rejected over the foregoing references, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,431,179 (Miyazaki et al.). This reference does not contain any disclosure that would support a rejection of claim 5, individually or in combination with the other references.

Claims 5, 10, 11, 15 and 16 have each been amended to state that a treating device or station has a treating tank. This amendment is merely for clarity and is not for reasons of patentability.

For the reasons noted above, none of the references disclose or suggest the several characterizing features of claim 5. Claim 5 is therefore unobvious over the references cited. Claims 6-16 depending from claim 5 are also unobvious over the references cited. Allowance of claims 5-16 is requested.

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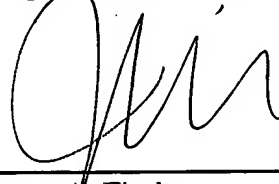
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Signature
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Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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